

see, she respectively, sè 'cook'
 but the Yoruba sounds āṣṓ 'cloth'
 are higher in pitch
 than their English counterparts. For some
 speakers, Yoruba ṣ sounds almost like English
 (and Yoruba) s.

n, m, Yoruba has a syllabic ñkān 'something'
 nasal sound which is ñ ó wǎ 'I will come'
 produced, depending on
 its environment, in the same position as the
 consonants m and n, or in the same position
 as the last consonant sound in English song.
 It differs from these other sounds in its
 length, and in the fact that it always carries
 a tone.

When it stands before a consonant, the syllabic
 nasal assumes the position of articulation which
 is characteristic of that consonant. When it
 stands before a vowel, it is dorso-velar (like
 the ng in song), and is transcribed in these
 materials with the letter n. Note that in the
 transcription employed here, the letter which
 stands for the syllabic nasal always stands under
 a tone mark, and also that in this system of tran-
 scription a tone mark never stands over the letter
n unless the n does stand for the syllabic nasal.

r Reminiscent of the rárá 'expression
 sound spelled r in of negation)
 British English very, rí 'to see'
 or of the Spanish sound in pero. But where the

European sounds consist of taps against the gum ridge from below it, the usual Yoruba r begins with the tongue bent back so that the tip is behind the gum ridge. It then taps against the gum ridge on the way down.

gb, p

This pair of consonants are likely to cause the learner as much difficulty as all of the other consonants and vowels of Yoruba combined.

Both gb and p are 'co-articulated stops,' pronounced with simultaneous closure at the lips (as for English big or pig), and at the soft palate (as for English gave, cave). The two closures are released simultaneously, without any aspiration (puff of breath). The two sounds are identical except that gb is voiced, while p is voiceless. (Sounds like Yoruba p are spelled kp in most other languages where they are found).

An approximation to this type of stop sound may be made by pronouncing the English phrase big boy, and then trying to divide it after the first vowel: bi-gboy. In learning the sounds properly, however, there is no substitute for many short periods of work with a speaker of Yoruba who can both provide an authentic model for imitation, and also tell the student immediately whether his attempt at mimicry is accurate. The exercises which follow this section may prove useful as guides in this kind of practice.

In pronouncing the syllables pe, gbe, po, gbo, it is important not to make the vowels too tense, or to spread the lips in the production of e after p and gb.

b vs. gb

a.	ṙ̀bà (name of a river)	ṙ̀gbà	'garden, yard'
	ṙ̀bà	ṙ̀gbà	D
	ṙ̀bà	ṙ̀bà	S
	ṙ̀gbà	ṙ̀bà	D
	ṙ̀gbà	ṙ̀gbà	S
b.	àgbòṅ 'chin'	àbòṅ (type of tree)	
	àgbòṅ	àbòṅ	D
	àgbòṅ	àgbòṅ	S
	àbòṅ	àgbòṅ	D
	àbòṅ	àbòṅ	S
c.	gbà 'to get'	āgbádá 'man's outer garment'	
	gbó 'old'	bẹ̀ṅí 'yes'	
	bàtà 'shoe'	ìbòṅ 'gun'	
	báwó 'how?'	gbígbo 'old'	
	īgbá 'calabash'	ààbò 'half'	
	ṙ̀bā 'king'	àgbòṅ 'coconut'	
	báyǐ 'now'	ẹ̀gbòṅ 'older sibling'	
	òbǐ 'parent'	òbẹ̀ 'knife'	
	ìgbà 'time'	ìbùsùn 'bed'	
	ēbī 'hunger'	gbé 'take'	

d. Sound sequences for practice with a live tutor.

gbi	gbin	gbu	gbun	igbi	igbin	ugbu	ugbun
gbe		gbo		egbe		ogbo	
gbẹ		gbọ	gbọn	ẹgbẹ		ọgbọ	ọgbọn
	gba					agba	

gb vs. p

a.	īgbá	'calabash'	īpá	'epilepsy'
	īgbá		īpá	D
	īgbá		īgbá	S
	īpá		īgbá	D
	īpá		īpá	S
b.	ìpè	'call'	ìgbè	'illegal punishment'
	ìpè		ìgbè	D
	ìpè		ìpè	S
	ìgbè		ìpè	D
	ìgbè		ìgbè	S
c.	pápá	'field'	gbádùn	'interesting'
	gbígbó	'old'	pọ	'cheap'
	ọpǎ	'walking stick'	lágbájá	'so-and-so'
	ẹgbọn	'older sibling'	pẹlǔ	'with'
	ādúpé	'thank you'	dùgbẹ	(name of a street)
	ẹpẹ	Èpẹ (a city)	òpọpọ	'street'